

EXHIBIT A

- 17. (Amended) [A purified vertebrate] An isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide comprising continuous amino acids, the sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.--
- 19. (Amended) [A] An isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide [encoded by the isolated vertebrate nucleic acid molecule of claim 1] comprising continuous amino acids, the sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:9.--
- 20. (Amended) A method for stimulating neural crest cell differentiation [in a culture] comprising [administering] contacting a neural crest cell with a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to stimulate neural crest cell differentiation, so as to thereby stimulate neural crest cell differentiation.--
- 22. (Amended) A method for regenerating nerve cells in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to regenerate nerve cells, so as to thereby regenerate nerve cells in the subject.--
- 23. (Amended) A method for promoting bone growth in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to promote bone growth, so as to thereby promote bone growth in the subject.--
- 24. (Amended) A method for promoting wound healing in a subject comprising administering to the subject a

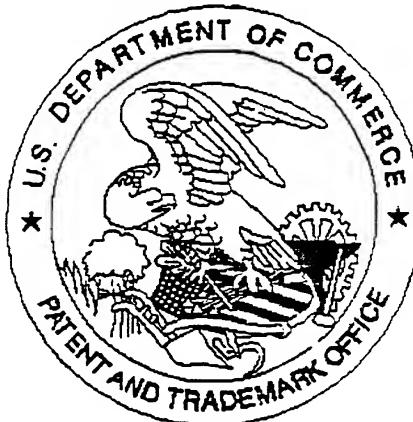
composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to promote wound healing, so as to promote wound healing in the subject.--

- 25. (Amended) A method for treating a neural tumor in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to inhibit [the] tumor cell growth, so as to thereby treat the neural tumor in the subject.--
- 26. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 25, wherein the neural tumor is a neurofibroma.--
- 27. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 25, wherein the neural tumor is a Schwann cell tumor.--
- 36. (Amended) [Antibody] An antibody capable of specifically binding to the isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19.
- 37. (Amended) [A] The antibody of claim 36, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody [of claim 36].
- 38. (Amended) [An] The antibody of claim 36, wherein the antibody is capable of inhibiting the biological activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide.--
- 39. (Amended) A method for inhibiting the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of the antibody of claim 38 effective to inhibit the the activity of dorsalin-1 [activity], so as to thereby inhibit the the acitivity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide.--

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(Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] comprising an amount of the antibody of claim 38 effective to inhibit the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

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